

**I CLAIM:**

1. A computer program product for controlling a computer to validate program configuration data, said computer program product comprising:

5 comparing code operable to compare an XML data representation of said program configuration data with data defining valid program configuration data;

wherein, if said XML data representation does match said data defining valid program configuration data, then triggering code is operable to trigger a valid program configuration response.

10 2. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program;

15 program initialisation data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

XML data directly specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

20 3. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, comprising mapping code operable to map between said program configuration data and an XML data representation of said program configuration data.

25 4. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data defining valid program configuration data is one of:

XSD data defining a valid XML data representation; and

DTD data defining a valid XML data representation.

30 5. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said comparing code is part of an XML parser.

6. A computer program product as claimed in claim 5, wherein said XML parser also provides validation of XML data other than said XML data representation of said program configuration data.

7. A computer program product as claimed in claim 3, wherein said mapping code is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data.

8. A computer program product as claimed in claim 7, comprising editing code operable to edit said DOM data representation of said program configuration to provide modified program configuration to be validated.

9. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said comparing code is executable by a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises sending validated program configuration data to a managed computer for use by said managed computer.

10. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

11. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said comparing code is executable by a managed computer which receives program configuration data from a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises configuring a program on said managed computer using said validated program configuration data.

12. A computer program product as claimed in claim 11, wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

13. A computer program product for providing program configuration data for a computer, said computer program product comprising:

receiving code operable to receive an XML data representation of said program configuration data at said computer;

mapping code operable to map between said XML data representation and said program configuration data; and

configuration code operable to at least one of apply said program configuration data to said computer and retrieve said program configuration data from said computer.

14. A computer program product as claimed in claim 13, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

program initialisation data specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

15. A computer program product as claimed in claim 13, wherein mapping between said XML data representation and said program configuration data is via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data.

16. A method of validating program configuration data, said method comprising the step of:

comparing an XML data representation of said program configuration data with data defining valid program configuration data;

wherein, if said XML data representation does match said data defining valid program configuration data, then triggering a valid program configuration response.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program;

program initialisation data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

XML data directly specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

18. A method as claimed in claim 16, comprising the step of mapping between said program configuration data and an XML data representation of said program configuration data.

19. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said data defining valid program configuration data is one of:

XSD data defining a valid XML data representation; and

5 DTD data defining a valid XML data representation.

20. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of comparing is performed by an XML parser.

10 21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said XML parser also provides validation of XML data other than said XML data representation of said program configuration data.

22. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein mapping between said program configuration data and said XML data representation is via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, comprising the step of editing said DOM data representation of said program configuration to provide modified program configuration to be validated.

24. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of comparing is performed by a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises sending validated program configuration data to a managed computer for use by said managed computer.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

26. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of comparing is performed by a managed computer which receives program configuration data from a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response

comprises configuring a program on said managed computer using said validated program configuration data.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

28. A method of providing program configuration data for a computer, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an XML data representation of said program configuration data at said computer;

mapping between said XML data representation and said program configuration data; and

at least one of applying said program configuration data to said computer and retrieving said program configuration data from said computer.

29. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

program initialisation data specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

30. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein mapping between said XML data representation and said program configuration data is via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data.

31. Apparatus for validating program configuration data, said apparatus comprising:

comparing logic operable to compare an XML data representation of said program configuration data with data defining valid program configuration data;

wherein, if said XML data representation does match said data defining valid program configuration data, then triggering logic is operable to trigger a valid program configuration response.

32. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program;

program initialisation data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

XML data directly specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

33. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising mapping logic operable to map between said program configuration data and an XML data representation of said program configuration data.

34. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said data defining valid program configuration data is one of:

XSD data defining a valid XML data representation; and

DTD data defining a valid XML data representation.

35. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said comparing logic is part of XML parsing logic.

36. Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said XML parsing logic also provides validation of XML data other than said XML data representation of said program configuration data.

37. Apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said mapping logic is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data.

38. Apparatus as claimed in claim 37, comprising editing logic operable to edit said DOM data representation of said program configuration to provide modified program configuration to be validated.

39. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said comparing logic is part of a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises sending validated program configuration data to a managed computer for use by said managed computer.

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40. Apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

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41. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said comparing logic is part of a managed computer which receives program configuration data from a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises configuring a program on said managed computer using said validated program configuration data.

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42. Apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

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43. Apparatus for providing program configuration data for a computer, said apparatus comprising:

receiving logic operable to receive an XML data representation of said program configuration data at said computer;

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mapping logic operable to map between said XML data representation and said program configuration data; and

configuration logic operable to at least one of apply said program configuration data to said computer and retrieve said program configuration data from said computer.

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44. Apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

program initialisation data specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

45. Apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein mapping between said XML data  
5 representation and said program configuration data is via a DOM data representation  
of said program configuration data.